

3 March 1958

Mr. F. Moran McConihe
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McConihe:

We have noted with interest the current publicity concerning the construction of the Potomac River bridge and were recently advised informally by officials of the Public Buildings Service that the new target date is some two years earlier than that provided for in the former schedule. As I understand it, the construction of the approaches to the bridge would require the demolition of several buildings now occupied by the Central Intelligence Agency and some consideration is being given to requesting that we vacate these buildings early in 1959.

Whether the eventual additional river crossing is a bridge or a tunnel, we fully recognize the need for it and the importance of completing it as soon as possible. However, we consider it extremely important that the timing for the construction of the approaches be such as will not require us to vacate the buildings to be demolished until we can move into our new building at Langley the latter part of 1960 or early in 1961. Aside from the very substantial cost of making such a temporary move, it seems very doubtful that proper accommodations could be prepared by early 1959. The activities concerned are, for the most part, rather specialized and normal office-type space does not lend itself to their use in many instances. Many of these activities could not move until comparable accommodations, including specialized equipment, were available at the interim location. Even more important, however, is the fact that it is almost mandatory that most of the activities which would be affected must be in immediate proximity to other Agency components and the Director. To do otherwise would most seriously jeopardize the efficiency of our operation and the timeliness of our product.

To attempt such an interim move would, in our opinion, be contrary to the national interest. I would, therefore, like to request that the necessary action be taken to insure that those affected buildings occupied by this Agency be maintained for our use until we are able to move the components which occupy them directly into our new building.

I would be glad to meet with you or your representatives at any time to discuss this matter in further detail if you so desire.

Sincerely,

/s/

L. K. White
Deputy Director

DD/S:LKW:laq

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(Added by DD/S on 3/12/58)